

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

1. (Currently Amended) A dewatering aid for dewatering a cementitious slurry coating on a product, said dewatering aid comprising a particulate material in an effective quantity and particle size to maintain porosity in the slurry and the product to be coated during dewatering and thereby permit dewatering of the slurry through the product to be coated, wherein said dewatering aid is fly ash particles having two components with a first larger size component of particles of about a 100 micron maximum size in an amount of about 10 to 60 wt% of the cementitious slurry based on total dry ingredients, and a second smaller size component of particles of comprises about 25-60 wt% silicea, about 10-30 wt% Al₂O₃, about 5-25 wt% Fe₂O₃, about 0-20 wt% CaO, about 0-5 wt% MgO, wherein a first portion of the particulate material has a particle size of about a 10 micron microns maximum size or less in an the amount of about 5 to 30 wt.% of the formulation cementitious slurry based on total dry ingredients and a second portion of the particulate material has a larger particle size of about 100 microns maximum size or less in the amount of 10 to 60 wt.% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the slurry includes additives as fillers selected from the group consisting of microspheres, diatomite, wollastonite, ground rice hulls, perlite, vermiculite, expanded polystyrene,

gypsum, calcium carbonate, alumina hydrate, silica flour and the like dewatering agent is selected from the group consisting of fly ash, alumina trihydrate, silica flour, cenospheres and mixtures thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) A The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the product through which the slurry is dewatered is a cementitious building board or product or gypsum building board.

5. (Currently Amended) A The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the slurry includes fibres.

6. (Currently Amended) A The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the coating includes an hydraulic binder selected from the group consisting of white, grey or pigmented cements, hydraulic limes and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the coating includes cements selected from the group consisting of Portland cement, blended cements, blast furnace slag, pozzolans pozzalans, masonry cement, oil well cement, natural cement, alumina cement, expansive cements and mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) A The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the slurry coating includes a binder between about 10 and 50 wt % based on total dry ingredients.

9. (Currently Amended) A The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the slurry includes organic additives selected from the group consisting of plasticising agents and biopolymers fly ash is the dewatering agent.

10. (Currently Amended) A The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering aid allows the coating to be uniform

~~on the product 9 for dewatering a cementitious slurry coating on a product, wherein the dewatering agent comprises:~~

~~i) about 10 to 60% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients of a first large fly ash component including fly ash having a particle diameter between 1 and 100 microns but an average particle size of greater than 10 microns, and~~

~~ii) about 5 to 30 wt % of the formulation based on total dry ingredients of a second small fly ash component having a maximum particle size diameter of about 10 microns,~~

~~wherein the dewatering agent is provided in an effective quantity to maintain porosity in the slurry and the product to be coated during dewatering and thereby permit dewatering of the slurry through the product to be coated.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering aid permits dewatering of the slurry within a few minutes agent includes a coarse fraction fly ash having a particle size diameter greater than about 100 microns.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the cementitious slurry coating includes additives to improve resultant properties of the coating.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the cementitious slurry coating includes additives to improve workability and applicability of the slurry to the product to be coated.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the cementitious slurry coating includes additives to improve the properties of the product to be coated such that upon dewatering of the slurry through the product, the product is thus treated with said additive.

15. (New) A dewatering aid for dewatering a cementitious slurry coating on a product, said dewatering aid comprising a particulate material in an effective quantity and particle size to maintain porosity in the slurry and the product to be coated during dewatering and thereby permit dewatering of the slurry through the product to be coated, wherein said dewatering aid comprises about 25-60 wt % silica, about 10-30 wt % Al_2O_3 , about 5-25 wt % Fe_2O_3 , about 0-20 wt % CaO, about 0-5 wt % MgO, wherein a first portion of the particulate material has a larger particle size of about a 100 micron maximum size less in the amount of about 10 to 60 wt% of the cementitious slurry based on total dry ingredients and a second portion of the particulate material that is a smaller particle size of about a 10 micron maximum size in the amount of 5 to 30 wt.% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients, and wherein the slurry is more than 25% water and up to 50% water.

16. (New) The dewatering aid according to claim 15, wherein the dewatering aid is selected from the group consisting of fly ash, alumina trihydrate, silica flour, cenospheres and mixtures thereof.

17. (New) The dewatering aid according to claim 15, wherein the product through which the slurry is dewatered is a cementitious building board or product or gypsum building board.

18. (New) The dewatering aid according to claim 15, wherein the dewatering aid permits dewatering of the slurry within a few minutes.

19. (New) The dewatering aid according to claim 15, wherein the particulate material includes a particle size greater than about 100 microns.

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AMENDMENT WITH RCE
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20. (New) The dewatering aid according to claim 19, wherein the particulate material is selected from the group consisting of bottom ash and products of coal combustion.